

Minutes of a Town Council meeting held on September 4th, AD 2014 at 7:00 o'clock PM in the Town Council Chambers, Town Hall, 40 Commons, Little Compton, RI. Members present: Charles N. Appleton, Jr., Fred M. Bodington, III, Paul J. Golembeske, Gary S. Mataronas and Robert L. Mushen. Also present: From RI Dept. of Transportation - Robert Smith, PE, Chief Design Engineer, Robert Rocchio, PE, Traffic Managing Engineer and Bernie Frezza, Legislative Liaison. Senator Louis DiPalma, Richard S. Humphrey, Town Solicitor, Tom Dunn, Business Manager, Acting Police Chief A. Marion and Fire Chief R. Petrin. Clerk's notation: Over 100 members of the public were also in attendance.

Pledge to the Flag.

The Town Council President called the meeting to order at 7:00 o'clock PM.

Motion made by Councilor Mataronas, receiving a second by Councilor Golembeske, voting in favor (Appleton, Bodington, Golembeske, Mataronas, Mushen): To move to the beginning of the agenda New Business #1 – Discussion of rumble strips that were created on West Main Road by RI Dept. of Transportation.

Councilor Mushen acknowledged that the Town did not notice, nor comment on the proposal to install rumble strips on West Main Road when a book on the project was received in the spring of 2013. He

could not say if he had noticed if he would have realized the how they would have affected traffic in Little Compton, but he now realizes the impact and opposes the rumble strips. He noted that three groups of individuals have responded with comments:

1- Bicyclists and walkers – no longer safe on West Main Road and must enter into the travel lane

2- Residents – normally a quiet residential area no longer quiet – extreme noise when cars ride the rumble strips

3- Vehicles with trailers, i.e. boats trailers or landscaping companies – no way to avoid the rumble strips some portion of the tires must ride either the center strip or the side strip especially if passing bicycles or walkers.

The Council had an opportunity to sit face-to-face this evening with the representatives from RI Dept. of Transportation (RIDOT) and all agree this project needs to be reinvestigated in an effort to mitigate the issue.

Councilor Mushen asked if anyone in the audience wished to speak in favor of the rumble strips. No one stood in favor of the rumble strips.

Senator Louis DiPalma spoke noting his many conversations on the Town's behalf with State and Local Officials to try and rectify this matter. He will continue to work with RI DOT and the Little Compton

Town Council to mitigate this matter.

Robert Smith, PE, RIDOT – made the following points of fact

- **The State relied on Federal money for this project**
- **Rte 77 – West Main Road is labeled Federally as a “rural” roadway, as opposed to Rte 77 – Main Road Tiverton which is labeled as an “urban rural” roadway**
- **Funding through this grant was for “rural” roadways**
- **They used the Nationally recognized countermeasures for safety on rural roadways**
- **They agree some areas are a little narrower in some areas**
- **They have heard and respect the comments received**
- **A contractor has already been engaged to re-strip the paint on West Main Road this evening, this will still continue as they feel it will be safer to have the lines in place even if the mitigation is to repave the roadway, which could take time**
- **All options are on the table for mitigation – partial repair or full repair**
- **Acknowledge the bicyclists and walkers do have a safety problem**

Robert Rocchio, PE, RIDOT – Acknowledged the state could have done a better job communicating with the community of the planned activity in advance of the work. He also apologized and took responsibility for the situation.

Councilor Mushen – asked for public comment:

Barbara Passmore – Can not understand how they could have proceeded knowing the road was not wide enough to sustain rumble strips. This has ruined the quiet community previously enjoyed in Little Compton and strongly urged the State to put the road back to its previous condition.

Donna Scott – Asked if any statistics were used?

R. Rocchio, RIDOT – Federally averages for rural roadway were used, not actual data from Little Compton events. They felt based on the roadway determination that the conditions warranted the safety improvements for this type of roadway.

Malcolm McGeoch – feels the answer was not to the questions asked.

R. Rocchio, RIDOT – An average is used federally where 1 crash per million for a certain roadway traveled vs. 2.8 crash per million rate for the rural roadways thus labeling this road as hazardous. Acknowledged this may not have been the best choice in review of the roadway for rumble strips.

Councilor Mushen – the Town was not asked to give statistics, but has them available for review now. Using the federal average is not accurate for Little Compton data.

Dominique Browning – Has never heard a public official apologize and thank him for his acknowledgement of the err. Also asked what “mitigation” meant.

R. Rocchio, RIDOT – Options, take out the rumble strips, completely repave, partially remove some rumbles strips but leave others – everything is on the table at this point for review and consideration.

R. Smith, RIDOT – repaving could be difficult so all options must be evaluated

Thomas Arcoleo – How long will the review take?

R. Smith, RIDOT – Can’t say definitively how long, but temperature plays a factor in the process should repaving be the choice of mitigation. Options are planned to be given to the Town Council at their meeting of September 18, 2014.

Bernie Frezza, RIDOT – Acknowledged that Senator DiPalma is aggressive with correcting issues in his district and he is confident he will stay on top of this matter to see it mitigated as quickly as possible.

Bob Brooks – a cyclist and resident – in his opinion this was not an appropriate action to take on this roadway it has pushed the cyclists

into the road and out of the breakdown lane.

Dawn Peckham – has copies of the federal guidelines – feels the rumbles strips all need to be removed, both side and center. She thanked the state officials for coming. Doesn't think a site survey was done in preparation for the work, if it had they would have realized not enough width to the road was available to handle rumble strips.

Alice Benedict – Sound travels even to her home on Old Main Road. The sounds wake them up in the nights.

Jack Nelson – the noise is disgusting in his opinion. It causes him emotional stress and constantly worrying when he hears the rumble fearing that an accident is about to happen.

Ben Gauthier – resident and cyclist – this is a hazard and needs to be rectified. He asked if the state could warn people somehow especially in light of a cycle ride to occur on Sept. 7th with approximately 2000 registrants.

R. Rocchio, RIDOT – the state meant to make the road safer, recommends police details.

Erik Thomas – Questioned if any other roads are planned for rumble strips in Little Compton.

R. Rocchio, RIDOT – We can guarantee no more roads in Little Compton will have rumble strips installed

Betsy Stapleton – experienced first hand difficulty passing cyclist with oncoming traffic.

Richard Small – Semi-trucks or dump trucks constantly go over the rumble strips as they try to navigate the corner. Additionally he has seen youngsters riding the strip to get the vehicle in front of them to move over.

Councilor Mushen – plans on meeting with RIDOT and the local Police Dept. to draft options to discuss on Sept. 18th, It should be acknowledged that Willow Ave, Brownell Rd and maple Avenue will have paint lines added at some point with this same grant project.

Carolyn Montgomery – concerned for safety, at 7:52 this morning in a ten minute span 17 vehicles crossed over the rumble strips

Mike Steers – the rumbles strips were installed in one evening, can they be removed in one evening? No.

Sal Marinosci – suggested cold planing the strips as a quick fix and with a full pave project in the spring. – RIDOT will consider that suggestion.

Charlie Scott – worries about the affect snow plows will have on the striping. Feels the state should not waste money on painting, but use money to fix this problem.

Jeremy Allen suggests reducing the speed limit temporarily due to conditions.

With no further public comments a brief recess was taken at 7:56 PM – Motion made by Councilor Golembeske, receiving a second by Councilor Mataronas, voting in favor (Appleton, Bodington, Golembeske, Mataronas, Mushen) To recess briefly at 7:56 PM.

Reconvening at 8:02 PM –

Motion made by Councilor Mataronas, receiving a second by Councilor Golembeske, voting in favor (Appleton, Bodington, Golembeske, Mataronas, Mushen): To approve, as written the August 21, 2014 Town Council meeting minutes.

Motion made by Councilor Mataronas, receiving a second by Councilor Golembeske, voting in favor (Appleton, Bodington, Golembeske, Mataronas, Mushen): To approve, as written the August 27, 2014 Special Town Council meeting minutes.

Motion made by Councilor Mataronas, receiving a second by

Councilor Golembeske, voting in favor (Appleton, Bodington, Golembeske, Mataronas, Mushen): To place on file the Maintenance Department Head Report for August 2014.

Motion made by Councilor Golembeske, receiving a second by Councilor Bodington, voting in favor (Appleton, Bodington, Golembeske, Mataronas, Mushen): To authorize the payment of \$6,878.85 to Durkee Brown Viveiros Werenfels and Change Order #14 in the amount of \$51,346.94 both relating to the reconstruction project for the Wilbur McMahon School.

Appointment of Police Chief – background – the members of the police department local 644 asked the Council to consider hiring from within the department to replace the outgoing Police Chief. The Town Council agreed, received two applications one from Lt. Antone Marion and one from Sgt. John G. Faria. Both individuals were interviewed.

Motion made by Councilor Golembeske, receiving a second by Councilor Mataronas, “To appoint Acting Police Chief Lt. Antone Marion, III as Police Chief for the Town of Little Compton, contingent upon a successful drafting of a contract for his services.

Discussion:

All five Councilors stated that they were impressed with the interviews of both candidates. They also acknowledged that Lt. Marion has served as Acting Chief during absences for Chief Wordell

while Sgt. Faria was not afforded that experience at this time. They further stated that both were considered good men and well thought of by their peers both on a state level and locally. Sgt. Faria was encouraged to reapply for the position when the incoming Chief chooses to retire.

Former Police Chief hopes the dynamics, training and support given to the department by the Town Council will continue to exist under the new Chief. He sees dedication in the department and hopes they continue to work together as team.

Motion made by Councilor Golembeske, receiving a second by Councilor Mataronas, voting in favor (Appleton, Bodington, Golembeske, Mataronas, Mushen): To appoint Acting Police Chief Lt. Antone Marion, III as Police Chief for the Town of Little Compton, contingent upon a successful drafting of a contract for his services.

A letter of interest has been received from Robert Booth to serve as a member of the Board of Tax Assessors. Due to the fact this position has not been officially posted the Council feels led to post to receive letters of interest as per Town Code. Mr. Monahan's term will expire as of the general election in November due to his decision not to seek re-election.

Motion made by Councilor Golembeske, receiving a second by Councilor Bodington, voting in favor (Appleton, Bodington,

Golembeske, Mataronas, Mushen): To post a vacancy of an unexpired term of a member of the Board of Tax Assessors to receive letters of interest by September 18, 2014 and to accept at that meeting the letter of interest from Robert Booth.

Motion made by Councilor Mataronas, receiving a second by Councilor Bodington, voting in favor (Appleton, Bodington, Golembeske, Mataronas, Mushen): To grant permission to Polly Allen, Lori Craffey and Patrick McHugh to use Veteran's Field on September 17, 2014 from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm for a public ice cream social.

Motion made by Councilor Bodington, receiving a second by Councilor Mataronas, voting in favor (Appleton, Bodington, Golembeske, Mataronas, Mushen): To grant permission to Polly Allen, Lori Craffey and Patrick McHugh to set up a tent and table on Pikes Peak on September 9, 2014 for the primary election to allow residents to meet candidates.

Motion made by Councilor Mataronas, receiving a second by Councilor Golembeske, voting in favor (Appleton, Bodington, Golembeske, Mataronas, Mushen): That the recommendation of the Board of Tax Assessors for the cancellation of the following taxes be granted under Section 44-7-14 of the General Laws of Rhode Island, as amended:

Acct/Name Plat/Lot/MV Abatement Value Abatement Year

05-0164-00 PI 014 Lot 00440 \$2,600 \$14.66 2014

Emerson, David et als

02-1382-00 PI 005 Lot 0006 \$60,400 \$340.66 2014

Bridge, Frederick TTEE

22-0007-60 MV 2012 Merc M2C \$9,010 \$125.24 2014

Valcourt Heating Inc.

01-0509-50 Personal Property \$2,170 \$24.48 2014

Armstrong, Brandon A

13-0522-74 2007 Hyundai Sonata \$573 \$7.96 2014

Marrow, Lillian C

23-0893-00 Personal Property \$3,000 \$33.84 2014

Wilkie, Denise A

13-1900-00 PI 032 Lot 0166 \$131,100 \$739.40 2014

Moore, Brent D

19-0070-10 MV, 2004 G,C Sierra \$926 \$12.87 2014

Sakonnet Yacht Blub Inc.

02-0914-00 PI 045 Lot 0020 \$352,700 \$1,989.23 2014

Bouch, Elizabeth A

Motion made by Councilor Mataronas, receiving a second by Councilor Bodington, voting in favor (Appleton, Bodington, Golembeske, Mataronas, Mushen): To accept an offer from Guardian Energy Management Solutions to participate in the RI Project Expediter Program by allowing a no-cost energy efficiency assessment of town buildings and general analysis for energy reduction.

Motion made by Councilor Mataronas, receiving a second by Councilor Golembeske, voting in favor (Appleton, Bodington, Golembeske, Mataronas, Mushen): To place on file an invitation received from the RI Office of Energy Resources to serve on the RI Municipal Energy Working Group and to allow the Council President to inform RIOER of the Town's declination.

Motion made by Councilor Golembeske, receiving a second by Councilor Mataronas, voting in favor (Appleton, Bodington, Golembeske, Mataronas, Mushen): To approve the petition of National Grid covering the installation of underground facilities on Pennsylvania Road at pole 462, contingent upon the supervision of Director of Public Works.

Motion made by Councilor Mataronas, receiving a second by Councilor Golembeske, voting in favor (Appleton, Bodington,

Golembeske, Mataronas, Mushen): That the bills be allowed and paid as follows: \$23,681.88

RI Town & City Clerks Assoc. - Town Clerk \$30.00

Paychex of New York LLC - Treasurer \$509.43

Fisher Bus Inc. - Senior Busing \$300.00

Xerox Business Services LLC - Town Clerk \$1,299.00

Postmaster - Zoning Board \$49.00

Humphrey's - Maintenance \$29.87

Sakonnet Plumbing & Heating - Town Hall \$70.96

Denise Cosgrove - Assessors \$47.68

Leonard Duckworth - Assessors \$1,990.37

Robert H Goff Jr - Assessors \$1,990.38

Nationalgrid - Street lights \$23.82

Nationalgrid - Town Dock \$43.22

Eastbay Newspapers - Canvassers - Town Clerk \$97.65

Eastbay Newspapers - Probate \$60.00

Richard S Humphrey - Town Solicitor \$4,000.00

Richard S Humphrey - legal services other \$1,058.50

Goulart Petroleum Inc. - Harbor Management funds \$37.04

Susan Sisson - Director of Social Services \$800.00

Direct Energy - Street Lights \$7.59

Direct Energy - Street Lights Town Dock \$7.88

Interstate Refrigerant Recovery - Transfer Station \$217.00

Rego & Sons Landscape Services - Civic Rec - DPW \$1,150.00

NFPA - Fire Dept. \$215.05

Ocean State Truck & diesel - Fire Dept. \$610.00
Waterway - Fire Dept. \$2,464.20
Firematic Supply Co Inc. - Fire Dept. \$464.00 \$3,753.25
United Site Services - Transfer Station \$115.00
Madden Electric - Town Hall \$128.88
Thomas Wood - Police Dept. \$450.00
Belmont - Police Dept. \$33.46 \$483.46
Fall River Police Dept. - Drug Forfeiture \$800.00
KTR Maintenance & Supply - Public Safety Complex \$1,170.00
KTR Maintenance & Supply - Town Hall \$100.59
CS&M Tele-Systems, Inc. - Town Hall \$85.00
Dave Venancio - Inspectors \$1,140.00
Helger Bros Construction - Civic Rec. \$514.31
McGeogh's Turf Management Inc. - Civic Rec. \$365.00
McGeogh's Turf Management Inc. - Civic Rec. \$427.00
William L Moore - Inspectors \$780.00

Motion made by Councilor Golembeske, receiving a second by Councilor Bodington, voting in favor (Appleton, Bodington, Golembeske, Mataronas, Mushen): To adjourn at 8:33 PM.

Carol A Wordell, Town Clerk